

Complexities in the Geographical Jurisdictions of District Courts As of September 2015

To understand the complexities stemming from the piecemeal creation of District Courts in Texas, a taxonomy of jurisdictional boundary-overlap patterns was developed. Because most courts' boundaries overlap wholly or partially with some other court, the state's 464 District Courts cover its 254 counties in 100 distinct areas. Each area is defined by a lack of overlapping boundaries with other areas.

The taxonomy is useful because it allows us to understand a very complex geographical system by understanding a small number of patterns occurring within that system. Six patterns emerged from an analysis of geographical boundaries. The frequency of the six patterns is shown in the table below. Examples of each pattern and further details follow the table.

Jurisdictional Overlap Patterns	Number of Areas	Number of Counties	Number of Courts
Single County / Multiple Courts / No Courts Serve Another County	28	28	280
Single County / Single Court / Court Does not Serve Another County	15	15	15
Multiple Counties / Multiple Courts / Identical Jurisdictions	6	23	13
Multiple Counties / Single Court	27	78	27
Multiple Counties / Multiple Courts / One Separate Jurisdiction	13	39	54
Multiple Counties / Multiple Courts / Many Separate Jurisdictions	11	71	75
TOTAL	100	254	464

Single County / Multiple Courts / No Courts Serve Another County

<i>County</i>	<i>Number of Courts</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Number of Courts</i>
Harris	59	Midland	5
Dallas	39	Williamson	5
Bexar	27	Smith	4
Tarrant	27	Brazos	3
Travis	18	Ellis	3
Collin	11	Grayson	3
Hidalgo	11	Gregg	3
Denton	8	Orange	3
Jefferson	8	Wichita	3
Fort Bend	7	Angelina	2
Montgomery	7	Kaufman	2
Galveston	6	Nacogdoches	2
Ector	5	Parker	2
McLennan	5	Rockwall	2
TOTAL Counties = 28		TOTAL Courts = 280	

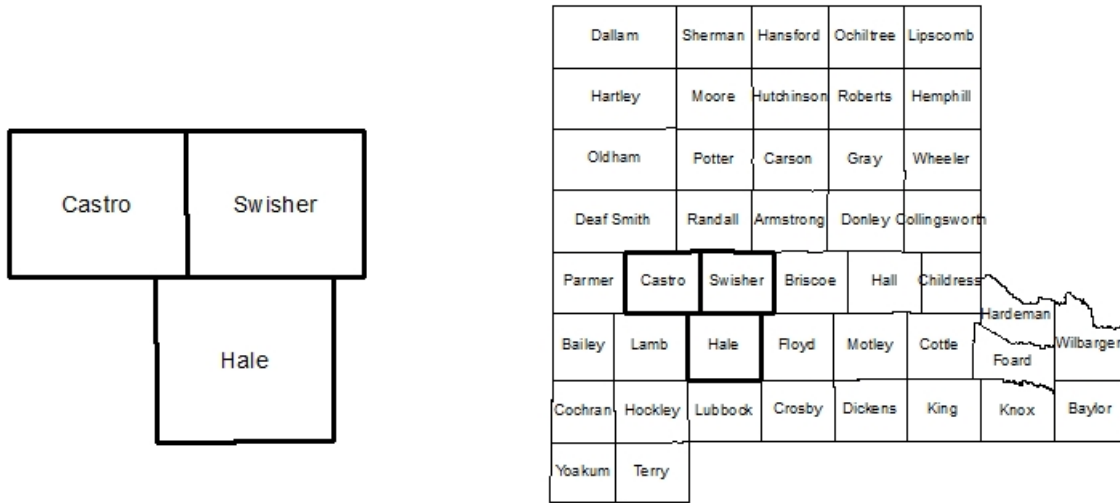
Single County / Single Court / Court Does not Serve Another County

<i>Counties with a Single District Court</i>	
Cooke	Lamb
Coryell	Milam
Eastland	Navarro
Erath	Palo Pinto
Fannin	Rusk
Harrison	Van Zandt
Hill	Wood
Hood	
TOTAL Counties = 15	TOTAL Courts = 15

Multiple Counties / Multiple Courts / Identical Jurisdictions

An Example from the Ninth Administrative Judicial Region

<i>Court</i>	<i>Counties in Jurisdiction</i>
64 th District Court	Castro, Hale, & Swisher
242 nd District Court	Castro, Hale, & Swisher



Counties Sharing Multiple Courts

3 Counties:

Castro, Hale & Swisher
 Dimmit, Maverick & Zavala
 Polk, San Jacinto & Trinity

4 Counties:

Blanco, Burnet, Llano, & San Saba

5 Counties:

Atascosa, Frio, Karnes, La Salle & Wilson
 Aransas, Bee, Live Oak, McMullen & San Patricio

TOTAL Counties = 23

Courts

2 Courts: 64 & 242

2 Courts: 293 & 365

2 Courts: 258 & 411

2 Courts: 33 & 424

2 Courts: 81 & 218

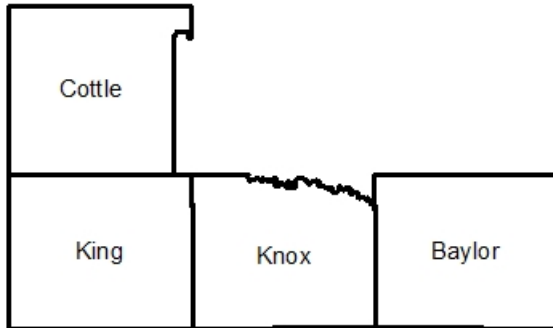
3 Courts: 36, 156 & 343

TOTAL Courts = 13

Multiple Counties / Single Court

An Example from the Ninth Administrative Judicial Region

<i>Court</i>	<i>Counties in Jurisdiction</i>
50 th District Court	Baylor, Cottle, King & Knox



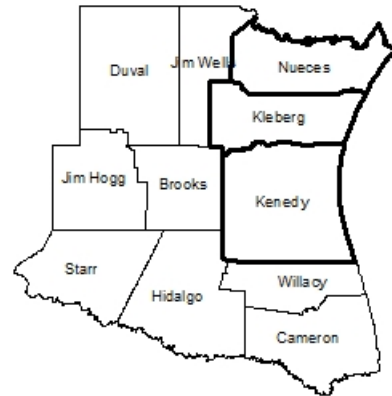
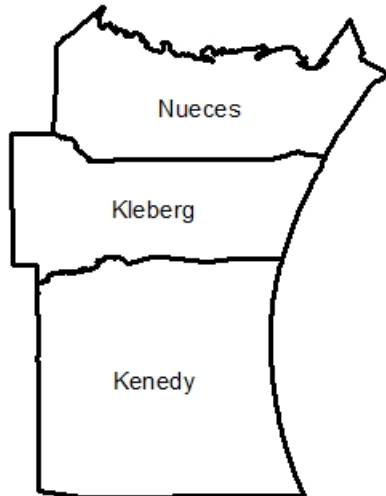
Dallam	Sherman	Hansford	Ochiltree	Lipscomb
Hartley	Moore	Hutchinson	Roberts	Hemphill
Oldham	Potter	Carson	Gray	Wheeler
Deaf Smith	Randall	Armstrong	Donley	Collingsworth
Parmer	Castro	Swisher	Briscoe	Hall
Childress	Hardeman	Wilbarger	Foard	
Bailey	Lamb	Hale	Floyd	Motley
Cochran	Hockley	Lubbock	Crosby	Dickens
Yoakum	Terry			

Counties Per Court	Counties Sharing a Single Court	Administrative Judicial Region
Two (12 Courts in 24 Counties)	Austin & Fayette (155 th)	3 rd
	Falls & Robertson (82 nd)	3 rd
	Brooks & Jim Wells (79 th)	5 th
	Borden & Scurry (132 nd)	7 th
	Jones & Shackelford (259 th)	7 th
	Stephens & Young (90 th)	8 th
	Jack & Wise (271 st)	8 th
	Terry & Yoakum (121 st)	9 th
	Deaf Smith & Oldham (222 nd)	9 th
	Cochran & Hockley (286 th)	9 th
	Bailey & Parmer (287 th)	9 th
	Brown & Mills (35 th)	9 th
Three (8 Courts in 24 Counties)	Bosque, Comanche & Hamilton (220 th)	3 rd
	Medina, Real & Uvalde (38 th)	6 th
	Fisher, Mitchell & Nolan (32 nd)	7 th
	Andrews, Crane & Winkler (109 th)	7 th
	Glasscock, Howard & Martin (118 th)	7 th
	Loving, Reeves & Ward (143 rd)	7 th
	Archer, Clay & Montague (97 th)	8 th
	Foard, Hardeman & Wilbarger (46 th)	9 th
Four to Five (7 Courts in 30 Counties)	Edwards, Kimble, McCulloch, Mason & Menard (452 nd)	6 th
	Haskell, Kent, Stonewall & Throckmorton (39 th)	7 th
	Dawson, Gaines, Garza & Lynn (106 th)	7 th
	Dallam, Hartley, Moore & Sherman (69 th)	9 th
	Briscoe, Dickens, Floyd, & Motley (110 th)	9 th
	Baylor, Cottle, King & Knox (50 th)	9 th
	Carson, Childress, Collingsworth, Donley & Hall (100 th)	9 th
Total Counties = 78		Total Courts = 27

Multiple Counties / Multiple Courts / One Separate Jurisdiction

An Example from the Fifth Administrative Judicial Region

<i>Court(s)</i>	<i>Counties in Jurisdiction</i>
28, 94, 117, 148, 214, 319 & 347	Nueces
105	Kenedy, Kleburg, & Nueces



Counties Sharing Several Courts

Bell & Lampasas (3rd AJR)
 Crosby & Lubbock (9th AJR)
 Johnson & Somervell (8th AJR)
 Webb & Zapata (4th AJR)
 Chambers & Liberty (2nd AJR)
 Cameron & Willacy (5th AJR)
 Hansford, Hutchinson & Ochiltree (9th AJR)
 Kenedy, Kleburg & Nueces (5th AJR)
 Callahan, Coleman & Taylor (7th AJR)
 Duval, Jim Hogg & Starr (5th AJR)
 Bastrop, Burleson, Lee & Washington (2nd AJR)
 Calhoun, De Witt, Goliad, Jackson, Refugio & Victoria (4th AJR)
 Gray, Hemphill, Lipscomb, Roberts & Wheeler (9th AJR)

TOTAL Counties = 39

Primary County

Bell
 Lubbock
 Johnson
 Webb
 Liberty
 Cameron
 Hutchinson
 Nueces
 Taylor
 Starr
 Bastrop
 Victoria
 Gray

Courts

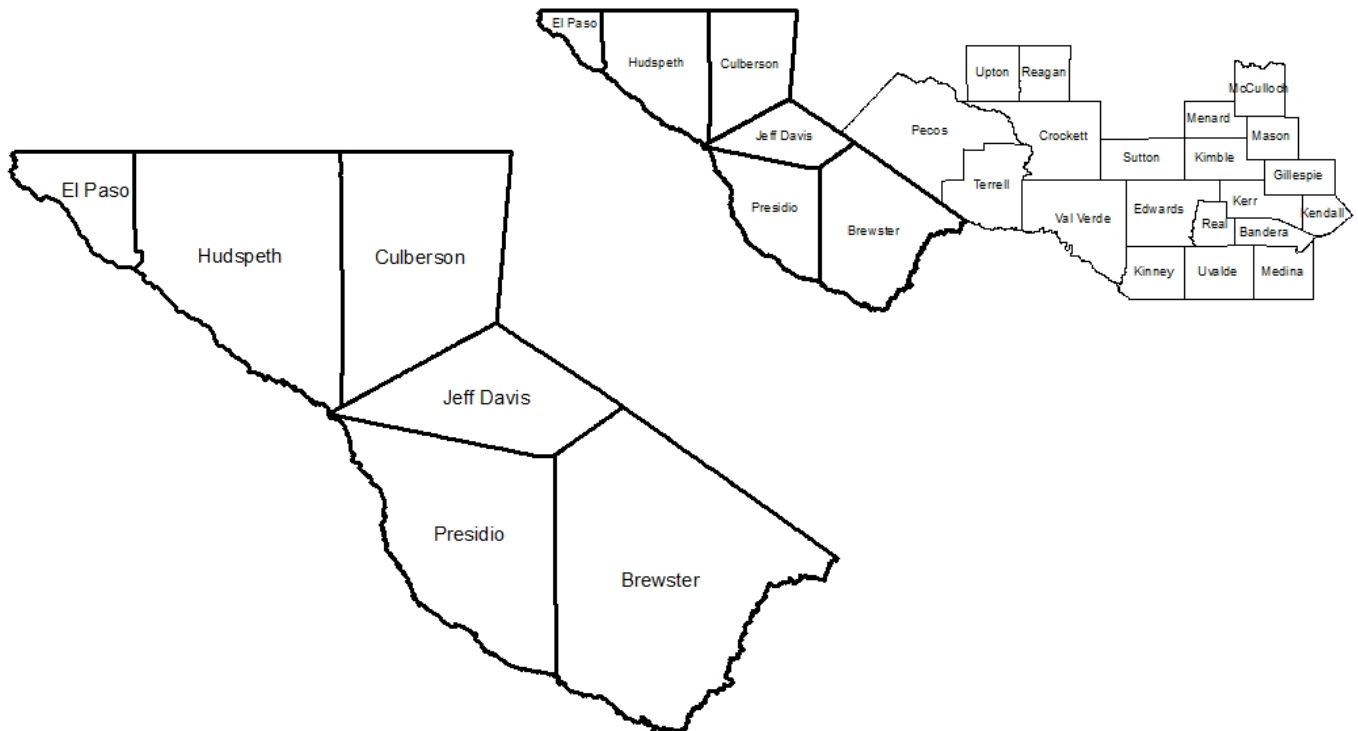
27, 146, 169, 264 & 426
 72, 99, 137, 140, 237 & 364
 18, 249 & 413
 49, 111, 341 & 406
 75, 253 & 344
 103, 107, 138, 197, 357, 404, 444 & 445
 84 & 316
 28, 94, 105, 117, 148, 214, 319 & 347
 42, 104, 326 & 350
 229 & 381
 21, 335 & 423
 24, 135, 267 & 377
 31 & 223

TOTAL Courts = 54

Multiple Counties / Multiple Courts / Many Separate Jurisdictions

An Example from the Sixth Administrative Judicial Region

<i>Court</i>	<i>Counties in Jurisdiction</i>
34, 40, 41, 65, 120, 168, 171, 210, 243, 327, 346, 383 & 384 205 394	El Paso Culberson, El Paso, & Hudspeth Brewster, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, & Presidio



Counties Sharing Several Courts

3 Counties: Armstrong, Potter & Randall
3 Counties: Brazoria, Matagorda & Wharton
4 Counties: Bandera, Gillespie, Kendall & Kerr
5 Counties: Camp, Marion, Morris, Titus & Upshur
6 Counties: Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis & Presidio
7 Counties: Coke, Concho, Irion, Runnels, Schleicher, Sterling & Tom Green
7 Counties: Caldwell, Colorado, Comal, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Hays & Lavaca
8 Counties: Hardin, Jasper, Newton, Panola, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby & Tyler
8 Counties: Crockett, Kinney, Pecos, Reagan, Sutton, Terrell, Upton & Val Verde
9 Counties: Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Hunt, Lamar, Rains, & Red River
11 Counties: Anderson, Cherokee, Freestone, Grimes, Henderson, Houston, Leon, Limestone, Madison, Walker & Waller
TOTAL Counties = 71

Courts

5 Courts: 47, 108, 181, 251 & 320
7 Courts: 23, 130, 149, 239, 300, 329 & 412
2 Courts: 198 & 216
3 Courts: 76, 115 & 276
18 Courts: 34, 41, 65, 120, 168, 171, 205, 210, 243, 327, 346, 383, 384, 388, 394, 409, 448 & Crim. District Court No. 1
4 Courts: 51, 119, 340 & 391
8 Courts: 22, 25, 2 nd 25, 207, 274, 421, 428 & 433
6 Courts: 1, 1A, 88, 123, 273 & 356
3 Courts: 63, 83 & 112
8 Courts: 5, 6, 8, 62, 102, 196, 202, & 354
11 Courts: 2, 3, 12, 77, 87, 173, 278, 349, 369, 392 & 506
TOTAL Courts = 75